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CHIATURA MANGANESE DEPOSIT

A. Litvak

From Chiatura, the richest deposit in the world, manganese used in hardening steel is brought down from the mountains by narrow-gauge railroad to the Shopeni station.

The Chiatura manganese mines are under supervision of Grigoriy Iosifovich Andguladze and Shalva Spiridonovich Sheklashvili, director and chief engineer, respectively, of the "Chiaturmanganets" (Chiatura Manganese) Trust. Mining of manganese at Chiatura in the second quarter of 1948 increased 17 percent over the same period of 1947. The Five-Year Plan calls for the mining of 2,040,000 tons of this extremely valuable metal in Georgia, while a 30-million-ton industrial reserve of manganese ore from the Chiatura deposit is to be prepared during 1946-1950. An increase in mechanization and electrification are also planned.

Manganese is used as an important alloy in the manufacture of steel, as well as in the preparation of glass and paints. A comparison of the physical and chemical properties of Soviet, Indian, Brazilian, Egyptian, Gold Coast, and South American manganese ores indicates clearly the superiority of the Chiatura ore.

The city of Chiatura is growing constantly. A funicular railway serves as the chief means of transporting freight and another for passengers is being planned. In 1947, 3,000 square meters of living space were made available, while in 1948 the number of new houses will be doubled. The Five-Year Plan calls for construction of 40,000 square meters of living space.

One of the men who has been instrumental in development of Chiatura is Vasilii Samkharadze, director of mine administration, Mine named Dimitrov, who in 1935 became the first follower of Stakhanov in Georgia.

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[Photographs, which are not reproduced here, show a general view of the Kvirili River at Chiatura, narrow-gauge bucket cars loaded with manganese ore emerging from a drift at Mine imeni Lenin, the funicular railway which connects enterprises of the "Chiaturmarganets" Trust, and a general view of Chiatura and the Shukrutskeye highlands.]

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